



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rescued Beach Cottage Gets New Life as One of Nantucket's Greenest Homes

*Saved from Beachside Erosion, Historic Cottage is Relocated and Restored –
Setting a New Threshold for Nantucket Summer Homes:
Small, Superb, and Sustainable.*

(October, 2010) Nantucket, Massachusetts - Woodmeister Master Builders (internationally-renowned provider of fine residential construction, custom cabinetry and interiors, and lifestyle management services) today announced it has achieved Nantucket's first [National Green Building Standard](#) (NAHB) gold certification for the restoration of a 106-year old beach cottage. The [gold certification](#) verifies that the building is 50% more energy efficient than the [Energy Star™](#) rating requirement.

Located on Smith's Point in the island's sandy southwest corner, the 1,040 square foot home, called *Westwind*, was in danger of being washed into the ocean, a fate that has met numerous nearby houses. In April 2010, the antique cottage was moved 50 feet inland to safety and then completely remodeled using the latest green technologies – preserving it sustainably for future generations.

Woodmeister Master Builders, together with Matthew Moger of [Moger Mehrhof Architects](#) and Wendy Valliere of Seldom Scene Interiors, collaborated on the project, which was completed in July. The result is a new model for residential construction on Nantucket - combining Woodmeister's "[Rational Sustainability](#)" approach to green building with a strong adherence to the island's commitment to historic preservation and environmental conservation.

Green Strategies Include Small Footprint and Low-impact Features

Keeping the building's footprint small and low-impact was one of the most important green criteria in the project, according to Daniel Paquette, Woodmeister's chief sustainability officer. "We wanted to show how small can not only be much more sustainable, but also no less beautiful, than a larger home. While every square inch in this cottage is maximized for efficiency, the details are nonetheless extraordinary," Paquette said.

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The cottage's nearness to the dunes and ocean underscored the importance of minimizing its effect on Nantucket's fragile ecosystem – as well as its carbon footprint, according to Paquette. "Moving *Westwind* presented a unique opportunity to completely rethink how to go about remodeling the cottage. We decided to utilize all available rational green technologies on the property, while still maintaining its classic Nantucket character."

Woodmeister's sustainable approach to the project included reusing as much of the existing building and using as many salvaged and recycled materials as possible. They installed a geothermal heating and cooling system (ground-sourced heat pump) that uses no fossil fuels, composting toilets by [Clivus Multrum](#), and a grey water filtration system. Other green features include rainwater collection and distribution, [Energy Star-rated appliances](#) and lighting, as well as bamboo cabinets, countertops made from bio-glass and tiles fashioned from recycled aluminum.

About the National Green Building Standard

The National Green Building Standard defines green building for single and multifamily homes, residential remodeling projects and site development projects while still allowing for the flexibility required for regionally-appropriate best green practices.

The standard, which was developed by the [National Green Building Program](#) (NAHBGreen) and approved by the [American National Standards Institute](#) (ANSI) in January 2009, includes four performance levels (bronze, silver, gold, and emerald). A builder, remodeler, or developer must incorporate a minimum number of features in the following areas: energy, water and resource efficiency; lot and site development; indoor environmental quality; and home owner education. The more points accrued, the higher the score.

About Woodmeister Master Builders

Founded in 1980 as a two-man cabinetry and millwork shop, Woodmeister today employs 150. In addition to receiving the [Globe 100's Top Places](#) to Work honor in 2008 and 2009, Woodmeister was named a [2009 Top Small Workplace](#) by the [Wall Street Journal and Winning Workplaces](#), a non-profit organization that helps small and mid-size companies improve their workplace practices. Woodmeister encompasses the entire scope of luxury custom home construction and renovation projects, custom cabinetry and interiors, and lifestyle management services. The company has offices in Holden, Nantucket, Newport, and New York City.

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